

HOUSE RESOLUTION 164

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Dr. Almella Starks-Umoja on being named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Reverend Dr. Almella Starks-Umoja, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the MID Fellowship requested nominations of Memphis and Shelby County women who are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and, subsequently, selected twelve outstanding women; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Starks-Umoja currently serves with distinction as an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has served as pastor of several churches in the denomination; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis and graduate of the University of Memphis and Memphis Theological Seminary, Dr. Starks-Umoja received her Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; she is also a graduate of the 1985

executive class of Leadership Memphis and a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a devout member of her community, Dr. Starks-Umoja is a charter member of the Dr. Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Awards Ceremony and the Starks Institute for Faith, Race, and Social Justice; she was selected in 2018 as one of the speakers for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor conference, themed "The Struggle Continues"; and

WHEREAS, her passion for social justice is embedded in her roots; as a teenager, she supported the Memphis Sanitation Strike along with her family, and today, Dr. Starks-Umoja continues her pursuit of this passion as an active member of the Lynching Sites Project of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Dr. Starks-Umoja be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Reverend Dr. Almella Starks-Umoja on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry of 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.